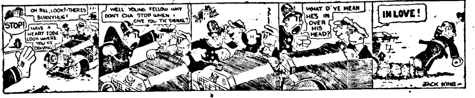
WAR PUT FUNNY NOTIONS IN HEAD OF JACK KING, BUT SUCCESS FOLLOWED

By REUBEN A. LEWIS


STOP!
OH BILL, LOOK!-THERES BUNNYHUG!
HAVE A HEART EDDIE LOOK WHERE YOU'RE DRIVING!
WELL YOUNG FELLOW WHY DON'T CHA STOP WHEN I GIVE YOU TH' SIGNAL?
WHAT D'YE MEAN HES IN OVER HIS HEAD?
IN LOVE!
JACK KING

An incident in the comic serial, "Eddie and the Younger Set," which Jack King has created

The war put funny notions in Jack King's head.

Ordinarily it is believed that funny notions are to be decried, but if you have a plentiful supply of India ink, a faithful pen and a trained right hand perhaps not. For this is the combination that enabled Jack King, a Birmingham boy, to break into the ranks of the Manhattan comic artists as the creator of a serial.

For the Brooklyn Eagle ran his series of comic strips entitled "War News From Bugville," in which animated insects were depicted in belligerent moods which he drew before attaining his twentieth birthday.

This is just one of the achievements that Jack has scored in the art world. And, if his ideals are fulfilled, there is a possibility that Birmingham will furnish an artist who will be associated with Tad, Bud Fisher, R. Dirks, Hopkins, Swinnerton, F. Opper and the other comic creators, with national reputations.

In fact, the youngster is now working on a serial entitled "Eddie and the Young Set," that has created favorable comment in New York.

It is seldom, indeed, that an artist, who is just 21 years old, has drawn pictures that are reviewed weekly by millions of people, but that is the feat of Jack King, who is now in Birmingham, visiting his mother, Mrs. Margaret P. King, at 925 South Eighteeenth street. But alas! Bud Fisher, whose reputation enables him to draw down an annual figure reputed to be $300,000 for his stint, usurps the credit. For, Mr. King is in the employ of the Barre studio and weekly animates, "Mutt and Jeff." Bud puts the "pep" into the comic duo, but leaves it to Jack to put life in them.

Animating the two well known characters is a big job, according to Mr. King.

HOW PICTURES ARE MADE

"I suppose it is commonly believed that Mr. Fisher draws the animated pictures of Mutt and Jeff for the movies, but such is not the case," Jack said yesterday. "If he did, he would not be able to sleep, for it ta[illegible]s a vast amount of effort to make t[illegible] two characters lifelike.

"The Barre studio weekly creates a Mutt and Jeff episode which runs about 600 feet in length and consumes about 10 minutes when flashed upon the screen. But, to tell this story, about 1500 individual drawings are necessary. Three artists work continuously to supply these sketches from which the weekly reel is made. "The initial step in an animated picture is to get a scenario. An old strip, which in about five pictures, told some humorous incident that happened to Mutt and Jeff, is enlarged into a scenario. Then the artists confer and divide the scenario into three parts—each taking a third. with the complete action in mind, the artists start to draw the pictures. For every movement, even as little as the winking of an eye, a new drawing is necessary.

"For instance, if Jeff takes a stride, it is necessary for an artist to draw 16 different pictures. This insures an even, regular movement and makes the picture seem life-like.

"After the entire number of drawings, each of which are about 12 by 14 inches in size, is completed, the director determines the number of exposures that each picture shall have. You understand, if there is no motion, such as a close-up of a note, the same drawing will be photographed perhaps for 30 exposures, and only one sketch is required.

"After the camera has photographed the series of pictures, the film is developed and the negative from which many positive prints are made is ready."

While the position of an artist in the large Barre studio is considered a splendid opening for a young artist in New York, as Mr. King states that New York is simply overflooded with artists, cartonists and comic creators who are srying for recognition, he has ambition to do cartoons, and comics for the big newspapers.

HAS CREATED NEW SERIAL

"At the present time, on account of the war news, the high cost of white paper and other contributing factors, there is no opening for a comic serial for the Brooklyn Eagle 'War News From Bugville' that ran periodically for over a year. It was for the children's page, and depicted simple little stories in which insects and bugs were the principals.

"I believe that the people want little episodes in pictures of the younger people. I have been working on a serial called 'Eddie and the Young Set' that is centered around Eddie, who has an attack of the 'in loves.' I have hopes and will keep plugging at it."

"Among artists in New York, who seem to be regarded as the leading cartoonists?"

"Robert Carter, Rollin Kirby and Oscar E. Cesare are the greatest in my opinion. The simple line crayon cartoon is in favor among the artists. But it is largely a matter of personal likes and dislikes.

"The work of the southern cartoonists is not overlooked in New York. Incidentally, Walter Blackman of The Age-Herald is regarded as that cartoonist in America who has achieved more success with the negro comic figures than any other artist. His 'Mandy' comics were really great and richly humorous. Orr of the Nashville Tennessean and Spangler of the Montgomery Advertiser are regarded as very able men, also.

"It is mighty hard for an artist to get along in New York. There are thousands of artists there in search of an opening. But New York is the big art center of America, and once recognition is gained there is a fortune beckoning to the lucky fellow."

At the present time Jack King is highly regarded in New York city among the young artists. He received his first instructions in Birmingham from Joseph Smith, but left Birmingham for New York city when he was 18. There he took art lessons from H. H. Lenord of the New York Press, and was a member of the New York Art Students' league. He has been in the employ of the Barre studios, which animate Mutt and Jeff, Goldberg's characters, and Hans and Fritz for over a year.

He will return to New York this week.

JACK KING
Who puts "life" in "Mutt and Jeff"